
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda



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Rep. Honda Statement on Vote Against H. Con. Res. 177

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2003 — Today, Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) released the following statement regarding his vote against H. Con. Res. 177.

“Although I agreed with most of the language in the resolution, there was also language that I could not overlook. Although it is accurate that ‘the United States pursued sustained diplomatic, political, and economic efforts to remove those threats peacefully’, it is also a fact the Bush administration bullied the world into armed military conflict, when most members of the U.N. still wanted to pursue diplomatic options.

“President Bush’s main argument for conflict with Iraq was that Saddam Hussein needed to rid his regime of weapons of mass destruction. To date no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq.

“And now it has come to light that there is an internal C.I.A. review of the 'national intelligence estimate' report which had concluded that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons and was seeking to reconstitute its nuclear program. After the war, the C.I.A. is assessing the accuracy of the reports that were the main justification for the conflict.

“I support our troops, but I could not support this resolution. On May 14, 2003, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation Committee approved an amendment that I authored to the Flight-100 Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. The amendment urged every U.S. airline to offer all members of the U.S. armed forces on active duty reduced air fares comparable to the lowest air fare for ticketed flights. On May 15, 2003, I introduced H. Res. 236, which called on the airlines to give members of our armed forces relief. On May 16, 2003, American Airlines heeded my call, and launched a new system-wide fare sale for travel exclusively for members of the U.S. military on active duty and their dependent family members.”